

JANUARY 23, 1817.

Read twice and committed to a committee of the whole House
to-morrow.

A Bill

*For the relief of certain sufferers in the late war between the United
States and Great Britain.*

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That*
3 the sum of three hundred and forty thousand dollars be,
4 and the same is herereby appropriated to remunerate the
5 inhabitants of the Niagara frontier, in the State of New-York,
6 for property destroyed by the enemy during the invasion of that
7 frontier between the eighteenth day of December, eighteen
8 hundred and thirteen, and the second day of January, eighteen
9 hundred and fourteen, both inclusive.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That no person shall be*
2 entitled to the benefits of this act, who was not either an inha-
3 bitant of the said Niagara frontier, at the time of the declara-
4 tion of the late war, between the United States and Great
5 Britain, or the actual owner and proprietor of some house or

6 building destroyed by the enemy during the invasion aforesaid,
7 or an inhabitant of the said frontier who had removed there
8 since the war, with a view to make a fixed and permanent set-
9 tlement there.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That no person who shall
2 have received any moneys from the Treasury of the United
3 States, for property destroyed during the invasion aforesaid,
4 in virtue of the ninth section of the act, entitled "an act to
5 authorize the payment for property lost, captured, or destroyed
6 by the enemy while in the military service of the United States,
7 and for other purposes," passed the ninth day of April last,
8 shall be entitled to relief under this act for any other or fur-
9 ther losses, unless he shall within five days after the first pub-
10 lic meeting of the commissioners herein-after mentioned, pay
11 into the hands of said commissioners, the whole of the sum or
12 sums received by him as aforesaid: and in case of his so re-
13 funding, he shall enjoy in relation to the whole of his losses,
14 all the right and benefit of the present law, in the same man-
15 ner as if he had not presented his claim under the said law of
16 the ninth of April last: and any sum, or sums which may come
17 into the hands of the said commissioners in compliance with
18 the provisions of this section, shall be by them paid into the
19 Treasury of the United States, and shall form an additional
20 fund to the said three hundred and forty thousand dollars
21 and is hereby appropriated to the same object.

1 **SEC. 4.** *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty
 2 of the Secretary of the Treasury, as soon as conveniently may
 3 be after the passing of this act, to appoint three commissioners,
 4 who shall immediately proceed to the Niagara frontier, and ex-
 5 amine and ascertain, by the best evidence that the nature of the
 6 case will admit of, the value of the several buildings destroyed
 7 by the enemy during the invasion aforesaid, and also the value
 8 of all other property destroyed in the said buildings, and be-
 9 longing to such persons as are entitled to relief by the provi-
 10 sions of this act; and shall also ascertain, either by the oath
 11 of the respective claimants, or such other evidence as may be
 12 satisfactory to them, the amount which the said claimants may
 13 have respectively received of a certain donation of fifty thou-
 14 sand dollars granted by the legislature of the State of New-
 15 York, in the year eighteen hundred and fourteen, to the suf-
 16 ferers on the Niagara frontier: and after completing the said
 17 examination, the said commissioners shall forthwith report to
 18 the Secretary of the Treasury the names of the sufferers enti-
 19 tled to the benefits of this act, and the amount of their respec-
 20 tive losses.

1 **SEC. 5.** *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the fur-
 2 ther duty of the Secretary of the Treasury on the receipt of
 3 the aforesaid report to cause the moneys appropriated by this
 4 act, to be divided and paid on their respective applications to
 5 the several persons intended to be relieved by this act, in pro-

6 portion to the amount of their losses respectively sustained by
 7 them and reported by the commissioners, after deducting from
 8 the amount of such losses, the sums which the claimants have
 9 respectively received of the said donation from the State of
 10 New-York: *Provided*, however that nothing in this act con-
 11 tained shall authorize the payment to any person of a greater
 12 sum than the amount of his losses as reported by the com-
 13 missioners.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That no person shall be
 2 entitled to receive any payment or compensation under the said
 3 act of the ninth of April last, or any act in amendment or alter-
 4 ation thereof, for any losses, for which provision is made either
 5 wholly, or in part, by this act.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That in case of the de-
 2 cease of any person, who, if living, would be entitled to the
 3 benefits of this act, the sum awarded by the Secretary of the
 4 Treasury shall be paid to his legal representatives.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the commissioners
 2 to be appointed in pursuance of this act, shall, before they en-
 3 ter upon their duties, take and subscribe an oath to perform
 4 those duties faithfully and honestly; and they shall have pow-
 5 er to administer oaths to the witnesses offered for examination
 6 before them; and for their services they shall be allowed at the
 7 rate of dollars per day for the time they shall
 8 be actually employed, to be paid out of any moneys in the
 9 Treasury not otherwise appropriated.